

Senate Study Bill 1159 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON RAGAN)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for vision screening for school children.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.39D Vision screening.

2 1. By January 1 after the start of the school year that a
3 child enrolls in kindergarten and by January 1 after the start
4 of the school year that a child enrolls in grade three, in
5 a public or nonpublic school, the parent or guardian of the
6 child shall present to school personnel certification that the
7 child within the previous twelve months has undergone an eye
8 examination, and the results of the examination.

9 2. The requirement for an eye examination may be satisfied
10 by any of the following:

11 a. A vision screening or comprehensive eye examination by a
12 licensed ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist.

13 b. An eye chart screening conducted at a pediatrician's
14 or family practice physician's office, a free clinic, or the
15 child's school.

16 c. An online vision screening through a program approved by
17 the director. An online vision screening may be conducted by
18 a child's parent or guardian.

19 3. A child shall not be prohibited from attending school
20 based upon the failure of a parent or guardian to present to
21 school personnel the documentation required by subsection 1.

22 4. The department shall establish procedures to contact
23 parents or guardians of children in need of vision correction
24 based on the results of an eye examination required under
25 subsection 1 in order to provide information on obtaining
26 necessary vision correction. The department shall consider use
27 of the statewide immunization registry or a private contractor
28 as a means of identifying and contacting the parents or
29 guardians of such children.

30 5. The department shall adopt rules to administer this
31 section.

32 EXPLANATION

33 This bill requires the parent or guardian of a child in
34 a public or nonpublic school to present certification that
35 the child within the previous 12 months has undergone an eye

1 examination, and the results of the examination, to school
2 personnel by January 1 after the start of the school year that
3 the child enrolls in kindergarten and by January 1 after the
4 start of the school year that the child enrolls in grade three.

5 The eye examination requirement may be satisfied by a vision
6 screening or comprehensive eye examination by a licensed
7 ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist; an eye chart screening
8 conducted at a pediatrician's or family practice physician's
9 office, a free clinic, or the child's school; or an online
10 vision screening through a program approved by the director of
11 the department of public health, which may be conducted by a
12 child's parent or guardian.

13 The bill specifies that a child cannot be prohibited from
14 attending school based upon the failure of a parent or guardian
15 to present the required documentation to school personnel.

16 The bill requires the department of public health to
17 establish procedures to contact parents or guardians of
18 children in need of vision correction based on the results of
19 an eye examination required by the bill in order to provide
20 information on obtaining necessary vision correction. The
21 bill directs the department to consider use of the statewide
22 immunization registry or a private contractor as a means of
23 identifying and contacting the parents or guardians of such
24 children.